

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production of nitric oxide in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising ~~at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid~~ in the form of a salt with arginine, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of improvement or promotion of blood circulation in skin ~~a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet aggregating activity, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.~~

Claim 10 (Canceled):

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is L- pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and ~~arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.~~

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 13 (Canceled):

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said ~~pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative~~ salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said ~~pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative~~ salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher

alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production nitric oxide synthase in a living body in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising ~~at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a~~ pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in the form of a salt with arginine, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of improvement or promotion of blood circulation in skin ~~a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet aggregating activity, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.~~

Claim 21 (Canceled):

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is L- pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and arginine is ~~selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.~~

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 24 (Canceled):

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said ~~pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative~~ salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said ~~pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative~~ salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claims 31 – 40 (Canceled):

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A method ~~for~~ of improving ~~of~~ or promoting blood circulation in the skin of a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising ~~a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid~~ or a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in the form of a salt with arginine.

Claims 42 – 44 (Canceled):

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~claim 44~~ claim 41, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is L- pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and arginine is L-arginine-in ~~in~~ said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is in the L form.

Claim 46 (Canceled):

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 41, wherein the content of said ~~pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid~~ salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 48 (New): The method according to claim 47, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 49 (New): The method according to claim 47, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 50 (New): The method according to claim 49, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an

oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 51 (New): The method according to claim 49, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 52 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 53 (New): A method of improving of the appearance of black rings beneath the eyes in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in the form of a salt with arginine.

Claim 54 (New): The method according to claim 53, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is L- pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and arginine is L-arginine.

Claim 55 (New): The method according to claim 53, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 56 (New): The method according to claim 53, wherein the content of said salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 57 (New): The method according to claim 56, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 58 (New): The method according to claim 56, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 59 (New): The method according to claim 58, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 60 (New): The method according to claim 58, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.